Application No. 10/516,588 Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

The above amendments to the specification are made in order to correct several errors that were present in the PCT International application. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendments.

Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action on the merits of the present application.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kecia J. Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

GMM/KJR/las 0020-5327PUS1